

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 131136Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8529
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PBOR, EFIS, UR, MO, SS, AG
SUBJ: ALGERIANS SQUEEZE CLARIFICATION OUT OF SOVIETS ON SAHARA

1. ON HEELS OF NEWS THAT SOVIETS AND MOROCCANS HAD SIGNED FISHERIES AGREEMENT IN MOSCOW COVERING "TERRITORIAL WATERS OF MOROCCO", GOA MEDIA BEGAN TO SHOW SIGNS OF DISCOMFORT. PARTICULARLY DISTURBING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LOUS GRAVIER'S ARTICLE FROM RABAT IN "LE MONDE" OF APRIL 29, ACCORDING TO WHICH "IT IS THOUGHT HERE THAT MOSCOW HAS JUST GIVEN IMPLICIT RECOGNITION TO NEW BOUNDARIES OF MOROCCO, SINCE SOVIET SHIPS WILL BE ABLE TO OPERATE UP TO BORDER WITH MAURITANIA."

2. MOST DIRECT STATEMENT OF ALGERIAN DISCOMFORT WAS MAY 2 EDITORIAL ON FRONT-PAGE OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED ALGIERS DAILY "ASH-SHA'B", WHICH WAS REMARKABLE IN PART BY ITS REITERATION OF ALGERIAN SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT U.S. POLICY ON SAHARA: "RABAT REGIME HAS SIGNED SEVERAL
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COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS...NO ONE DENIES MOROCCO RIGHT TO COOPERATE WITH ANY PARTY...BUT MATTER IS DIFFERENT WHEN IT COMES TO COUNTRIES DEALING WITH RABAT REGIME, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHOSE PRINCIPLES AND IDEOLOGY SHOULD OBLIGE THEM TO CONDEMN AGGRESSION AND SUPPORT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS...IT SHOULD CAUSE NO SURPRISE THAT STRUGGLING PEOPLES DO NOT VIEW WITH FAVOR ANY COOPERATION WITH MOROCCO, THE EXPAN-

SIONIST AGGRESSOR, WHICH INCLUDES OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF WESTERN SAHARA DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN ITS SCOPE...SAHARAN ISSUE IS ONE OF LIQUIDATING COLONIALISM...COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENT U.N. CHARTER FALLS IN FIRST INSTANCE ON GREAT POWERS, WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND ENSURING RESPECT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION. FRANCE HAS VIOLATED THIS PRINCIPLE IN OUR REGION, WHILE U.S. IS STILL ABIDING BY IT, AS IS PROVEN BY ITS DENYING MOROCCAN REGIMITS COC NCE FOR USE OF ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT OUTSIDE ITS INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES. SOVIET UNION HAS DONE LIKEWISE...BUT ALTHOUGH ITS STAND IS CLEAR...ITS REITERATION IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD PUT END TO CLAIMS OF MOROCCAN PRESS THAT SOVIET-MOROCCAN AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES INCLUDES TERRITORIAL WATERS OF SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC."

3. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ALGERIAN PRESSURE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO OBTAIN DESIRED SOVIET CLARIFICATION, SINCE ACCORDING TO ALGERIAN PRESS SERVICE (APS) SOVIET AMBASSADOR INFORMED SECYGEN OF FONMIN AT MAY 7 MEETING THAT "FISHERIES ACCORD...DOES NOT CONCERN (NE CONCERNE PAS) TERRITORIAL WATERS OF WESTERN SAHARA" AND THAT "HIS GOVERNMENT IS IN FAVOR OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF SAHRAOUI PEOPLE."

4. COMMENT: SOVIETS ARE OBVIOUSLY AS ANXIOUS TO AVOID OFFENDING NEW MOROCCAN ECONOMIC PARTNER AS THEY ARE TO KEEP OLD ALGERIAN POLITICAL PARTNER HAPPY. SOVIET AMBASSADOR COULD HAVE ADDED PRECISION TO HIS CLARIFICATION BY SPECIFICALLY RULING OUT ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET SHIPS IN WESTERN SAHARAN WATERS. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A SAHARAN BOARDING PARTY ATTEMPTS TO CONFRONT A SOVIET TRAWLER OFF THE WESTERN SAHARA?
HAYNES

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NNN

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